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FORMOSA--Number One Danger Spot

By Charles F. Boss

Serious reflection upon the Formosa situation justifies the title. This is not to say that should armed action break out on a wider scale, that necessarily it means a world war. But, are we to remain calm and undisturbed because armed action between the United States and Communist China might prove to be a limited war -- a brush war? Should not every just and honest method possible be sought to prevent even a limited war? Or, is it assumed that this will be a small war to prevent a bigger war? Present policy may to some extent keep the Communists guessing. On the other hand, there can be little doubt as to the intention of present policy as presented by the Secretary of State in his radio address the evening of March 8th. There is still flexibility in policy concerning the exact conditions under which action may be directed toward the offshore islands. Little doubt remains that any attack upon Formosa or the Pescadores will be met with immediate retaliation in sufficient force. It has also been made clear, we believe, that military force will be directed not only to offshore islands but to any mainland installations from which attacks upon Formosa or the Pescadores may start. At what point preparations for, or attacks upon, or building up the force in and around the offshore islands, should be interpreted as plans for launching attacks upon Formosa and related islands, appears to be a matter for President Eisenhower's determination.

What policy might be followed with some hope of reducing tension, leading to a cease-fire and opening the way to more fundamental negotiations?

We believe policy should be built upon the acceptance of a juridical line between Formosa and the Pescadores on one hand and the offshore islands and mainland on the other. The objective of the cease-fire, as stated in Item I on the Agenda of the Security Council, should be accepted as a continuing goal.

Efforts should be renewed for negotiations which would at least mean an acceptance by both sides temporarily of the status quo.

The United Nations, if not through the Security Council then through the General Assembly, should begin to work on a long-range policy directed toward an acceptable modus vivendi in the Far East situation.

The Secretary of State has made clear the nature of the Conferences in Bangkok and in Manila. He has made it clear that action would follow Chinese Communist decisions to use armed forces. He has indicated the hope of the United States and other nations that solutions to the problems may be found without resort to military force.

A limited war will still cost a large number of human lives -- American, Formosan, Chinese -- perhaps others. Every effort ought to be made by everyone concerned to bend decisions toward peaceful negotiations. Again, we stress action adopted by the Board of World Peace in annual session in January -- that policy with respect to larger decisions affecting the Chinese Communist Government should be kept sufficiently flexible to make possible a continuance of peaceful negotiation. To support a point of view that would keep open the future of Formosa, including such possibilities as the following, we would take into account (1) the past history of Formosa; (2) the indefinite status it has held since the Cairo Declaration; and, (3) the principle that governmental action concerning Formosa should first of all give consideration to the welfare of the people who live there. With these in mind, we suggest the following steps:

1. Announce that the United States will not support an invasion of the mainland by Chinese Nationalist forces, believing this would constitute intervening in the domestic affairs of the existing de facto government on the mainland.

2. That the United States announce its acceptance of a truce based on juridical considerations -- a line drawn between Formosa and the Pescadores on one hand and the mainland and offshore islands on the other.

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Staff: Rev. Charles F. Boss, Jr., executive sec'y; Rev. Carl D. Soule, field sec'y; Mr. Herman Will, Jr., administrative sec'y.

FORMOSA: NUMBER ONE DANGER SPOT--Continued

3. That this accepted truce be followed by other steps which might review alternatives such as the following:

(1) Giving Formosa tne status of a strategic island under United Nations trusteeship and assigning it to the United States until the nations concerned agree to lay aside resort to force, or the threat of force, in working out a solution to the problem.

(2) Placing Formosa and the Pescadores under United Nations trusteeship.

(3) Accepting the foregoing trusteeship plan with a view toward developing Formosa and related islands as a free and independent nation with membership in the United Nations.

(4) Planning for free elections, and a plebiscite whereby the Formosan people themselves would have a voice in their future status.

4. Consideration at the end of a defined period of time of the status of Formosa in relation to peace, security, and the general welfare of the peoples of the Far East, both on islands and on the mainland.

It must be recognized that such questions as the seating of the Peoples Republic of China in the United Nations must be considered as a problem related directly to any successful negotiations, although this may require a period of years rather than a period of months to complete.

Earnest efforts must be made, every possibility of peaceful solution sought, the utmost of restraint practiced. An overwhelming desire to save people and provide for their welfare should move us to extraordinary efforts to prevent the deterioration of the Far Eastern situation into even a limited war. Nor, should we overlook the political relationships between Communist China and the Soviet Union, which could lead, under provocation, into something more vast than mankind has yet dreamed-up concerning the extent and the tragic dimensions of an intercontinental, or world war. The danger is great. Our prayers, reading, study, thought and devotion to world peace should all be practiced to the maximum extent in days like these.

ACT NOW ON UMT PROPOSALS

The hour has come for writing or telegraphing Washington your views on proposed universal military training legislation. Write or wire Representative Overton Brooks, House Armed Services Committee, and your own Representative and Senators. (Ask your Representative for a copy of Bill H.R. 2967.) Use enclosed copy of REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION!

The General Conference, the Council of Bishops, the Board of World Peace, the Woman's Division of Christian Service, the National Conference of Methodist Youth, and the Board of Education are among the bodies which have taken action in opposition to universal military training in peacetime. These actions have not been aimed at the temporary extension of the Selective Service System due to unsettled international conditions. In time, one may believe that the organizations above-named may act to abolish all universal military training, even Selective Service, but -- not now. Methodist Church bodies, however, are opposed to the basic conception of a universal military training reserve system which contemplates the extension of the militarizing of the mind -- "the military posture" -- of practically all American youth. Not the Pentagon, but the United States Congress is responsible for the policy under which the United States operates. The Pentagon, through the President, may propose policies, but the elected representatives of the people in the House and Senate must finally act upon the proposals which are made. Take note that for more than 150 years the people of the United States and the Congress of the United States have refused to adopt UMT proposals comparable to the universal military training programs of Germany, France, and more lately, Russia and Japan. We believe the people of the United States still are opposed to such.

THE HOUR FOR ACTION HAS ARRIVED! If you have opinions pro or con on the subject, the hour has come to express them. The State Department has published a pamphlet entitled YOUR OPINION COUNTS. There can be no question about it. Your opinion -- expressed through personal interview, or by letter to your Congressman, your Senator, the President -- does count. Make it count NOW! Better to register your opinion now in Washington, than to complain later that legislation which you believe inimical to the best interests of American youth has been adopted as the law of the land. The CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE of March 24, 1955, contains an article on the subject of universal military training, entitled "Are the UMT Proposals Voluntary?" Methodists! Act now! There is no time to lose.

C.F.B.Jr.

CHARTER REVISION?

The question of Charter review and revision has been more sharply accentuated during recent months by reason of provisions in the Charter of the United Nations. Partially in response to appeals from small nations in the Charter Conference at San Francisco in 1945, the following provision for amending the Charter was adopted: (Chapter XVIII deals with the subject of Amendments in Articles 108 and 109.)

Article 108

"Amendments to the present Charter shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council."

Article 109

"1. A General Conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter may be held at a date and place to be fixed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any seven members of the Security Council. Each Member of the United Nations shall have one vote in the conference.

"2. Any alteration of the present Charter recommended by a two-thirds vote of the conference shall take effect when ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two-thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

"3. If such a conference has not been held before the tenth annual session of the General Assembly following the coming into force of the present Charter, the proposal to call such a conference shall be placed on the agenda of that session of the General Assembly, and the conference shall be held if so decided by a majority vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any seven members of the Security Council."

This means, of course, that some action with reference to the calling of a conference must be taken before the next session of the General Assembly. October 24th marks the 10th Anniversary, since the Charter came into force on October 24, 1945,

"upon the deposit of ratifications by the Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, and by a majority of the other signatory states. A protocol of the ratifications deposited shall thereupon be drawn up by the Government of the United States of America which shall communicate copies thereof to all the signatory states."

This item of a Charter review conference, therefore, will be on the agenda of the next General Assembly.

The Charter also is specific with reference to provisions for amendment. (See Article 108, above)

Note the three requirements:

1. When they have been adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the Members of the General Assembly.

2. When the States ratifying have done so in accordance with the respective constitutional processes.

3. When the ratification has been completed by two-thirds of the members of the United Nations (i.e. Governments), and when the two-thirds vote has included all the permanent members of the Security Council. The permanent members are China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States.

Several requirements should be noted:

1. Two-thirds of the Members of the General Assembly must vote to refer Amendments for ratification. (The veto in this case does not apply.)

2. To put Amendments into force, however, requires ratification by two-thirds of the member states, including all permanent members, hence, the veto does apply to any and all Amendments.

The veto is a possibility on any Amendment. Actually, this means that any one nation of the five permanent powers noted above could veto an Amendment ratified by 59 other governments.

Note should be taken of another point since some persons seem to have felt that if Amendments were not adopted in 1955, the cause of Charter revision is lost. May I point out that this is not the case. A Review Conference may be called by any General Assembly in any year. It is now the focus of public opinion and discussion by reason of the provision that if a Review Conference had not been called by the 10th Assembly, the item must be placed on the agenda before that date.

Another point to note is that if action calling a Review Conference should be taken, it does not mean that the Review Conference would have to be held immediately. The resolution might set a date a year or two years off.

What might be gained by a Review Conference? This is a difficult question to answer. Many agree that there could be revision of minor points and procedure. Also, consideration, I think, might be given to revision of the pro-

"ASSIGNMENT CHILDREN"

In the interest of the world's children, Danny Kaye was made UNICEF ambassador-at-large for a round-the-world trip. He visited children -- particularly underprivileged children in Asia and everywhere else. The results of this unprecedented ambassador's work are appearing in a Paramount picture on a non-profit basis in theaters throughout the world. This twenty-minute technicolor feature poignantly illustrates the significance of the United Nations Children's Fund and its work. Everywhere this noted comedian-ambassador won the hearts of boys and girls, many of whom will appear in the brilliantly executed film entitled ASSIGNMENT CHILDREN.

There are nine hundred million children in the world. Many of them go to bed hungry every night. For many there are ever-recurring diseases. Many are diseased from birth. Most of these millions lack vaccination, typhoid shots, penicillin, etc., and yet these are among the very services which UNICEF, now called the United Nations Children's Fund, is providing for the world's children.

For the calendar year of 1955, there is a UNICEF target program of $20,000,000 needed to continue and expand on-going projects. The United States has pledged to contribute 60¢ for every 40¢ contributed by other governments. This matching formula may be just, but it is necessary for all the countries involved to contribute the 40% or the total program necessarily shrinks.

You can do three things: (1) Phone or write the managers of your local moving picture theaters and urge that the Danny Kaye film be shown. (2) Urge your representatives in the House and Senate to appropriate a sufficient amount to enable the United Nations Children's Fund, i.e., UNICEF, to meet the needs of the world's children. (3) Use the United Nations program next Halloween in your community so that the interest of children and young people in the trick or treat idea may find worthwhile expression and result in hundreds of thousands of $$$,$$$ for UNICEF.

What is UNICEF? Over in one of the Asian countries where the children have been receiving their powdered milk in large containers on which UNICEF was printed, a child had this idea of its meaning. When asked, "What is UNICEF?" she replied, "Oh, UNICEF is the American word for cow."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ON UMT

A statement adopted by the General Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. on March 3, 1955, concludes with the following words: "The National Council of Churches reserving judgment as to specific measures currently under consideration, reaffirms its opposition to permanent universal military training."

GENEVA CONFERENCE INITIATES ATOMS FOR PEACE

A world-wide conference of nuclear scientists has been called to meet in Geneva August 8-27 by U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold and the seven-nation advisory committee. Amazingly -- 84 countries will be invited, and undoubtedly most or all of them will accept. At a subsequent time, no doubt, nations now excluded may participate, as for example, North Korea, East Germany, Outer Mongolia, Communist China -- perhaps others. While initiated by President Eisenhower in the U.N. General Assembly December 8, 1953, the conference will be an important project which could produce astounding results as a world cooperating body of scientists seeking to make atomic energy available for medical, fuel, power, and other uses to the nations of the world. The Soviet Union, having participated fully in preparatory work, has announced in the press its purpose to share its experience with other nations of the world.

Here is an ultra-modern expression of an old but fundamental idea, namely, beating technical weapons into tools of peace.

CHURCHES ARE INTERESTED IN ACTION

The pamphlet entitled WHAT CAN I DO FOR WORLD PEACE? seems to have struck a popular note, and at the present writing has been ordered in a number exceeding the half million mark. Copies are available for those who would like to have them but have not yet ordered.

Revised 1955 editions are now available of CRUSADING FOR WORLD PEACE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH and REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION!

Other denominations have sent in orders for REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION! totaling more than 25,000 copies, with orders coming also from non-church bodies. Samples are being sent to every pastor, and sufficient copies are available for prompt delivery. Prices: 10¢ per single copy, 50¢ per dozen, $3.50 per 100. You and your friends will need copies of REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION! to aid in effective action.

NEW PEACE FILMSTRIP IN GREAT DEMAND

WE SEEK PEACE, the new filmstrip of the Board of World Peace, produced for it by the Radio and Film Commission, seems to be meeting a felt need in the churches. Publicized only during the past several weeks, 88 already have been purchased by District Superintendents, Chairmen of Conference Boards of World Peace, District Peace Secretaries, and other church peace leaders. The price is only $6.00 including the sound recording. Many rent the filmstrip at $2.50 per showing. More than half of the 200 filmstrips entitled WE SEEK PEACE have now either been purchased or are out on rental. HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR ORDER?

BOARD OF WORLD PEACE CONDUCTS U.N. SEMINARS IN NEW YORK

Under the auspices of the Board of World Peace and, in certain cases, in cooperation with other Methodist agencies, the Board of World Peace has been conducting seminars at the United Nations in New York since 1946. All major seminars require time during four days.

In the last week of September, a cooperative seminar with the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Woman's Division and the Board of Education was conducted for some 45 leaders. Dr. Carl D. Soule represented the Board of World Peace.

The Methodist Editors' United Nations Seminar, October 4-7, was conducted by Dr. Charles F. Boss, Jr., as were also seven others through February 17. These seminars included:

(1) The Methodist Editors' United Nations Seminar, with 25 Methodist editors participating. A day's seminar was held first in Washington in the Department of State, the theme being "The United States in U.N. Affairs." This program was made possible through the fine cooperation of Mr. Harry Seamans in the Office of Public Liaison.

(2) Twenty-eight leaders from the South Central Jurisdiction were in the Seminar at the United Nations October 18-21. Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska were represented.

(3) During the days of November 16-19, some 60 representatives from the Detroit, Ohio, and North-East Ohio Conferences participated.

(4) The Peninsula Conference, with representatives from Wilmington, Delaware, to Crisfield, Maryland, participated in a short term Seminar, with some 47 ministers and lay leaders.

(5) The Chicago Area, with ministerial representation from the Southern Illinois, Illinois, and Rock River Conferences, numbering in all 67 persons, entered into the consultations and discussions January 24-27.

(6) The Syracuse Area, comprising the Genesee, Northern New York, and Central New York Conferences, brought 57 leaders for their U.N. Seminar January 31-February 3.

(7) On February 3 and 4, under the leadership of the District Superintendent, Dr. LaMont Henninger, 55 pastors and lay representatives came to the U.N. for a short-term Seminar experience.

(8) There followed, on February 14-17, a rather outstanding Seminar of 62 persons, including Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke and the director of the Seminar, Charles F. Boss, Jr. In this Pittsburgh Area Seminar, all 20 district superintendents and 40 pastors, 2 from each district nominated by the district superintendents, respectively, participated in the four-day Seminar. This was the first United Nations seminar in which the Bishop of the Area, all district superintendents, and representative pastors chosen from each district participated. This new pattern we believe will soon be followed by other areas of the Church.

Two cooperative seminars are just now over. Mr. Herman Will, Jr. has represented the Board of World Peace. The other agencies cooperating are the Boards of Missions and Education and the National Conference of Methodist Youth. Both of these seminars met part-time in Washington and part-time at the United Nations in New York. There were 50 members in each of the two seminars. In another cooperative seminar (for students) with the Board of Missions and Board of Education, our staff was not represented, but we contributed study material.

Other seminars are in process of promotion and will be announced from time to time.

In the ministers' seminars, we include a first evening of presentation and orientation on the U.N. and the church's relation to it. This is followed in subsequent days by an orientation guided tour, visitation to the General Assembly (if in session), the Councils, Commissions, and Committees meeting at the time. The program includes briefing on the nature, problems, and achievements of the United Nations, and on the various specialized programs being undertaken. United Nations experts speak and answer questions. Consultation and conferences in which members of various delegations to the United Nations interpret the view-points of their countries and their attitudes toward the United Nations are features. All seminars, before concluding, face the problems of leadership back in churches, conferences, and areas. The expenses of those who participate in the seminars are not paid by the Board. One amazing feature is the personal sacrifices made by many individuals who participate in the seminars. True, in some cases, some or all financial aid may be given by official bodies of the churches or other organizations which these members represent. The Executive Secretary of the Board has an office in New York in the new Carnegie Endowment for Peace Building, across the street from the United Nations. It serves both for consultation work at the United Nations and also in direction of the seminars. Letters concerning United Nations seminars should be addressed to Charles F. Boss, Jr., Executive Secretary of the Board of World Peace, at 740 Rush Street, Chicago.

FOR FACTS ON UMT

Universal-Permanent-Compulsory, Conscription Factfolder No. 3, 5¢ each.

The Facts About the Pentagon's New Conscription Plans, 25¢ each.

Order from Board of World Peace.

A good filmstrip and script on UMT is available from the National Council Against Conscription, 513 W. 166th St., New York 32, N.Y., at $5.00.

vision for admission into membership in the United Nations. Some believe the veto provisions, or -- to speak more accurately -- the requirement of "unanimity of the permanent members," should be amended. There are strong arguments to the contrary, one of which is the big powers must be united on the means of developing a modus vivendi and of achieving world peace. If they are not united in the face of world war, a veto, or lack of it, probably would not prevent a war. If they are united, amendments could be adopted at any time. If they are not -- if even one permanent member dissents by veto -- no amendment can be adopted at any time.

We cannot now enter into all of the arguments on specific proposals for revision. Subsequent issues of the COURIER and special materials will treat this whole question of Charter review and revision.

We believe the Board of World Peace will support recommendations for the calling of a Charter Review Conference. It is important, nevertheless, that there be a more fundamental study and discussion of the true nature of the United Nations, its functions, and the causes which prevent more rapid progress toward international peace. It seems important to point out that the United Nations is not an end in itself; it is an organization, a provisional means toward an end. The goal is world peace. The United Nations supplies the machinery and operation through which the governments and their peoples may meet the problems to be solved, the differences to be overcome, the conditions which must be met in order that mankind may enjoy lasting peace. The United Nations can supply the means; the nations must supply the will and accept the necessary requirements and enter into those agreements by which mankind may enjoy permanent peace. It is clear that the problems involved in a modus vivendi of co-existence and international peace will include universal -- and probably simultaneous -- disarmament under conditions which strengthen the trust of nations in each other.

World peace cannot be achieved by methods of war, nor can it be carried out among nations who by their policies and actions breed mistrust and fear. The most important thing, which must be done on a global basis today, is this overcoming of fear and the development of a trustworthy international procedure which will accomplish the objective stated above, and hence make for international peace, enabling governments to agree upon and to execute the steps required to give mankind the permanent peace for which all peoples yearn.

CFB,Jr.

PEACE EMPHASES IN THE CALENDAR

Memorial Day - May 30. Independence Day - July 4. World Order Sunday - October 23. United Nations Day - October 24, tenth anniversary of the ratification of the Charter. Halloween - Oct. 31, the U.N. Trick or Treat program.

RESULTS OF CRUSADE

Science has not yet provided the Board of World Peace with an electronic machine which could automatically compute, describe and publish a summation of the results of the Crusade for World Order. Any effort to measure results now would be premature. Nevertheless, the scattered letters, reports, sales of literature and demands beyond our ability to meet them, indicate that no small amount of labor was put forth and that the effect of the Crusade for World Order, led by the Council of Bishops, will be permanently felt in The Methodist Church. Nor has the Crusade ended. Even before special emphases were adopted and promoted in the Church, the regular agencies of the Church were at work upon the problems of world peace and had incorporated in their programs, reading, study, discussions, filmstrips, United Nations Seminars, literature, workshops, sermons special observances and many other items included in the churches' nation-wide and world-wide influence toward the achievement of world order and world peace.

Nevertheless, the Crusade made an impact. Later we may be able to present a more coordinated picture of what, from our point of view, resulted.

One minister has written:

"In addition to the preaching emphasis on three consecutive Sundays, we ran a study course on the following Tuesdays, which gave the people a chance to talk back to the minister and to enter into a rich, sharing experience. They were so interested that they didn't want to go home and expressed the wish that the course might continue.

"The materials which your office furnished were most helpful. We used three filmstrips, also the sound movie with the youth interviewing Bishop Oxnam...On the second Sunday we had a huge U.N. emblem on the worship center, and on the third an actual plowshare and pruning hook, arranged as per the design on one of the leaflets. The whole thing seemed to click.

"In addition, we used a variety of resource materials...We sold 80 copies of the study book and the average attendance at the study courses was about 30, not as much as I had hoped for, but more than I, with my little faith, had expected."

Yours - Bob.

Our office was literally swamped by demands for literature, aid in workshops, requests for the film and filmstrips, and personal letters requesting special guidance, special interpretations, etc. on problems. Requests for material came from beyond the boundaries of The Methodist Church, as did requests for the interpretation pamphlet by Bishop Ensley, "The Preaching of Peace." More than 500,000 copies of "What Can I Do for World Peace" were ordered. We are thankful that the stream of orders continues to reach us, and there is no reason why the content of the world's agonizing prayer for lasting peace may not infiltrate our Lenten Devotions.